

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 IO-10 COME-00

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 /056 W  
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R 052200Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5012

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, PE

SUBJECT: NEW MEAT MARKETING POLICY ANNOUNCED

1. FOOD MINISTER HOYOS ANNOUNCED APRIL 30 COMPLETE CHANGE IN SYSTEM FOR MARKETING MEAT IN LIMA AREA. MARKETING WILL EVENTUALLY EITHER PASS TO HANDS OF STATE OR SOCIAL PROPERTY ENTERPRISE, RUN BY BUTCHERS, WILL BE CREATED.

2. MAIN POINTS OF NEW PLAN WILL BE REDUCTION OF SLAUGHTERHOUSES FROM PRESENT SIXTEEN TO FOUR OR FIVE; ELIMINATION OF SOME 800 LICENSES TO SELL MEAT AT RETAIL LEVEL; MODIFICATION OF EXISTING SYSTEM OF MEAT CLASSIFICATION (ELIMINATION OF "EXTRA" GRADE, WITH ONLY GRADES ONE, TWO OR THREE REMAINING UNDER NEW SYSTEM); LIMITATION OF COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES OF SLAUGHTERHOUSES TO PROCESSING OF ANIMALS, EXCLUDING THEM FROM MARKETING CARCASSES AS THEY PREVIOUSLY DID; AND PREFERENTIAL DISTRIBUTION TO MARKETS IN POPULOUS WORKER AREAS. PLAN SPECIFIES THAT REMAINING ABATTOIRS WILL PAY UNIFORM PRICE FOR ANIMAL AND, ONCE SLAUGHTERED, STATE OR POSSIBLY SOCIAL PROPERTY ENTERPRISE WILL MARKET MEAT.

3. "AN ADEQUATE PERIOD OF TIME" ANNOUNCED FOR SYSTEM TO TAKE TOTAL EFFECT BUT MINISTER STATED THAT SOME CHANGES  
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IN PRESENT SYSTEM WILL BE PARTIALLY IN FORCE BY MAY 16

(WHEN CURRENT VEDA ON SALE OF BEEF ENDS).

4. COMMENT: THREE DIFFERENT MEAT MARKETING PROPOSALS ARE REPORTEDLY UNDER STUDY, SO WITH REPRESENTATIONS EXPECTED FROM VARIOUS INTERESTED SECTORS THE FINAL DISTRIBUTION PLAN MAY DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THAT REPORTED ABOVE. THE MAIN CONCERNS ARE THAT THE NEW PLAN MAY ELIMINATE OR AT LEAST LIMIT THE SUPPLY OF BETTER GRADE MEAT SOLD BY SUPERMARKETS AND SUBURBAN BUTCHERS; THAT THE EFFORT TO STANDARDIZE DISTRIBUTION MAY RESULT IN SALE TO CONSUMER OF SELECT CUTS FROM "CHUNK MEAT" CUT AT TIME OF PURCHASE FORCING PURCHASERS TO QUEUE UP FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME WITH RESULTING INCONVENIENCE; THAT THE CLOSING OF SEVERAL ABATTOIRS WILL REDUCE THE QUANTITY OF MEAT AVAILABLE AND HINDER MARKETING OF LIVESTOCK; AND THAT REMOVAL OF THE HIGHER-PRICED "EXTRA" GRADES WHICH NOW PARTIALLY SUBSIDIZE SALE OF CHEAPER MEAT WILL PUT A STOP TO CURRENT PRACTICE OF FINISHING MOUNTAIN BRED CATTLE IN FEED LOTS. UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG ABATTOIR WORKERS, BUTCHERS AND SUPERMARKET MEAT CUTTERS COULD BE A PROBLEM. THE NATIONALIZATION OF THE REMAINING SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND PLACING THEM UNDER EPSA IS ALSO CONSIDERED UNDER THE NEW PLAN. REACTION BY SUBURBAN BUTCHERS IS ONE OF CONFUSION AND UNCERTAINTY. THEY DO NOT EVEN KNOW IF THEY WILL BE ALLOWED TO STAY IN BUSINESS.

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## Message Attributes

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